

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /119 W

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R 171035Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3328

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 313

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YE, SA, PFOR

SUBJ: PRESIDENT IRYANI VISIT TO KING FAISAL; POLITICAL
MANEUVERS

REF: SANAA 268; SANAA 229; SANAA 193

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT IRYANI'S UPCOMING VISIT TO
RIYADH WAS AT FAISAL'S INITIATIVE, NOT THE OTHER WAY
AROUND. ACTING PRIMIN MEKKI CURRENTLY APPEARS HAVE THE
INSIDE TRACK FOR NOMINATION AS PRIMIN. END SUMMARY

2. WE ARE NOW INFORMED THAT INFO SANAA 229, INDICATING
YARG HAD TAKEN INITIATIVE IN SEEKING PRESIDENT IRYANI'S
OFFICIAL VISIT TO KING FAISAL, WAS INCORRECT. FAISAL
EXTENDED THE INVITATION BY LETTER AFTER VETOING
APPOINTMENT OF MUHSIN AL-AYNI AS YEMENI PRIMIN.
FAISAL'S LETTER IN EFFECT SAID "WE DIFFER ON THIS ONE BUT
AGREE ON MUCH ELSE. COME AND TALK THINGS OVER."

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3. WE ARE TOLD IRYANI, ANGERED BY FAISAL'S ACTION ON

AL-AYNI, WAS RELUCTANT ACCEPT BUT WAS IN THE END PERSUADED THAT IT WOULD INVOLVE NO LOSS OF DIGNITY TO STOP IN RIYADH EN ROUTE TO LAHORE.

4. ACCORDING TO A CLOSE RELATIVE, PRESIDENT IS UNLIKELY NOT Demean HIMSELF AGAIN BY PRESSING HARD ON THE AL-AYNI ISSUE WHILE IN RIYADH. PRESIDENT REMAINS ANXIOUS BRING A LEFTIST INTO HIGH OFFICE TO ADD "PROGRESSIVE" COLORATION TO YARG BUT HAS REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED THAT AL-AYNI DOES NOT HAVE THE LEADERSHIP QUALITIES WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY A REAL SHOWDOWN WITH SAG, WITH ALL THAT MIGHT ENTAIL FOR ECONOMIC AND BUDGET SUPPORT.

5. CURRENT GUESS OF THOSE CLOSE TO HIM IS THAT PRESIDENT WILL AGAIN EXPLAIN TO FAISAL THAT AL-AYNI'S APPOINTMENT WOULD HAVE MEANT NO CHANGE IN YARG POLICIES. IF FAISAL MAINTAINS HIS OPPOSITION, AND PRESIDENT EXPECTS HE WILL, IRYANI LIKELY EXPRESS HIS INTENTION GIVE REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO INTERIM PRIME MINISTER MEKKI. YARG REASONS THAT FAISAL MAY NOT LIKE THIS EITHER, BUT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO OBJECT A SECOND TIME. IRYANI WILL IN ANY CASE BE INFORMING NOT ASKING.

6. TAIZ EMBOFF REPORTS THAT AL-AYNI SUPPORTERS MAKING FURTHER STRONG PUSH FOR THEIR CANDIDATE AND APPEAR CONFIDENT OF SUCCESS. EMBASSY SOURCES IN SANAA, AS NOTED, GENERALLY AGREE MEKKI HAS THE INSIDE TRACK. HIS APPOINTMENT, IF IT EVENTUATES, WOULD BE A GESTURE TO LEFTISTS AND BOTHER FEW OTHERS SINCE HE IS CONSIDERED INEFFECTUAL. THIS NOT PARTICULARLY A MATTER OF CONCERN IN YARG SINCE PRESIDENT'S INNER CIRCLE PLANNING STRUCTURAL REFORMS UNDER WHICH IN FUTURE THE OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE DOWNGRADED AND THE REPUBLICAN COUNCIL WOULD BE GIVEN GREATLY EXPANDED OPERATIONAL AUTHORITY OVER MINISTRIES.
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